Recurrence of floods in the same localities in the Vizagapatam district.

* 1000-B Q.—Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many times during the last decade have the same localities in the Vizagapatam district suffered damage by floods ;

(b) what are the other contributory causes that have led to such floods in those areas whenever there were heavy rains ;

(c) whether any investigations were made as to the cause of the floods and whether any steps were taken to prevent damage by floods ;

(d) whether there are any proposals now under consideration to prevent such devastation in future ; and

(e) whether it is a fact that railway high banks and new irrigation works by Government and Zamindars in the locality without adequate provision for free drainage have contributed to floods in the locality ?

A.—(a) A portion of the Sarvasiddhi taluk was affected both by the floods of 1924, and by the recent floods in October 1928.

(b), (c) & (d) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to clause (c) of question No. 730-G at the meeting held on 27th November 1928. The Government are not aware of contributory causes other than abnormally heavy rains.

(e) The Government have called for a report on the subject from the Chief Engineer.

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—"With reference to the answer to clause (e) will the hon. Member be pleased to state whether the report has been received even now, and if it is not received, whether he would place it on the table as soon as it is received ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"It has not been received yet, and the question of placing it on the table will be considered when it is received."

General

His Excellency the Governor's refusal of sanction to Mr. Saldanha's Revenue Settlement Bill.

* 1001 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether any advice was given by him to His Excellency the Governor not to accord sanction to my Revenue Settlement Bill and, if so, for what reasons ?

A.—The Government regret they cannot give the hon. Member the information he desires as it is in their opinion against the public interests that information should be published regarding consultations between His Excellency the Governor and Members of his Executive Council.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I enquire for what reasons this sanction was refused ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"I cannot answer on behalf of His Excellency the Governor, Sir."